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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

KENNETH FLEMING, JOHN DOE, R.K., and
T.D.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE CORPORATION OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER-DAY SAINTS, a Utah corporation
sole, a/d/a "MORMON CHURCH"; LDS
SOCIAL SERVICES a/d/a LDA FAMILY
SERVICES, a Utah corporation,

Defendants.

NO. C04-2338 RSM

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL

**NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:
OCTOBER 28, 2005**

I. INTRODUCTION

This case involves claims of sexual abuse by four children at the hands of a Mormon boy scout leader, Jack LoHolt. In prosecuting the claims, plaintiffs have attempted to take several depositions of Mormon bishops. Those attempts have been thwarted by defense witnesses' refusal to answer questions and/or defense counsel's improper instructions to the witnesses not to answer certain questions, in violation of the spirit and letter of the Federal

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(C04-2338 RSM)
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1 Rules governing discovery. In bringing this motion to compel, plaintiffs provide brief
 2 excerpts from the depositions of three Mormon bishops – Bishop Randall Borland, Bishop
 3 Philip J. Coleman and Bishop Frederick Johansen. Plaintiffs request that these bishops be
 4 compelled to appear for deposition and answer questions posed consistent with this Court's
 5 order.

6

7 II. STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS

8 A. BRIEF FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

9 Plaintiffs have alleged that they were either members of the Mormon Church and
 10 during their childhood attended the Kent 2nd Ward of that entity or came into contact with
 11 Jack LoHolt through his involvement with the Mormon Church, Mormon clergy, or Mormon
 12 scouting organization.¹ Jack Allen Loholt was also a member of the Kent 2nd Ward of the
 13 Mormon Church during the plaintiffs' childhood and was an assistant scout leader for that
 14 Ward.

15 Plaintiffs also contend defendant Corporation of the President of the Church of Latter-
 16 day Saints ("COP") and LDS Social Services had control over the actions of Loholt, had
 17 notice of his pedophilia, and failed to take any steps to protect plaintiffs from Loholt.
 18 Plaintiffs now bring this action seeking damages as a result of the sexual abuse they suffered
 19 at the hands of Jack Loholt.

20 B. PROCEDURAL FACTS.

21 During the discovery phase of this case, plaintiffs have attempted to take depositions
 22 of three Mormon Bishops. On numerous occasions, the witnesses have refused to answer

23

24 ¹ See Complaint on file herein.

1 questions by assertions of privilege. Additionally, defense counsel have, on numerous
 2 occasions, impermissibly instructed the witnesses not to answer questions and made speaking
 3 objections.

4 Plaintiffs have asserted, and believe, that these Bishops have information critical to the
 5 prosecution of this case. Unfortunately, the Bishops, and counsel for defendants have refused
 6 to answer the questions posed. For the reasons discussed below, plaintiffs request that this
 7 Court compel the deposition answers and allow further inquiry of these bishops.

8 **C. DEPOSITION EXCERPTS.**

9 Throughout the discovery in this case, COP has asserted that its witnesses need not
 10 answer questions if **any** information sought was obtained by the witness in his "ecclesiastical"
 11 capacity as a Mormon Bishop. For example, in the deposition of Randall Borland, COP's
 12 attorney, Thomas Frey, asserted that the witness need not answer questions because the
 13 clergy-penitent privilege applied and the First Amendment barred the inquiry. At other times
 14 the instructions not to answer were based on other oblique assertions of privilege and
 15 confidentiality.

16 The following excerpts from the depositions of Randall Borland, Philip Coleman and
 17 Frederick Johansen, are demonstrative:

18 **(1) Randall Borland:²**

19 Q. . . . Did you ever make a referral to LDS Social Services for
 20 counseling Jack Loholt?

21 A. I don't remember. I do not remember that.

22 Q. Did you do anything or say anything to anyone else following the
 23 communication that you received from this person?

24
 25 ² The excerpts from the deposition of Randall Borland are attached to the Declaration of Michael T. Pfau as
 26 **Exhibit A.**

1 A. Regarding specifics?

2 Q. Anything.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What did you do or say?

5 A. I talked –

6 MR. FREY: Again, I'm going to caution you that if you took any
7 steps in your capacity as a clergyman and ecclesiastical in
8 accordance with the teachings and beliefs of the LDS religion that
9 you are not obligated to break that confidentiality if in fact you
learned that in those circumstances.

10 And for the record, Counsel, what I'm trying to do here is
11 allow you to ask questions without reaching what I believe is a
privilege that he has as a bishop to receive information, treat it with
12 confidentiality, and act on it in ecclesiastical fashion.

13 MR. KOSNOFF: Could you identify the source of that
privilege.

14 MR. FREY: *State v. Martin* and the statute, the First
15 Amendment.³

16 * * *

17 MR. FREY: And there's a third item involved here that we
18 haven't gotten to yet, but that is the privacy rights of individuals
19 who may be involved, if any. But I'm trying not to interfere with
20 your legitimate discovery area, and so I'm trying to be very careful
21 here. And I want you to understand that it's not my purpose here to
frustrate your discovery, but I do want him to be careful that he
doesn't breach any of the confidentiality that is imposed upon him
by his position as a clergyman.

22 So if you can read back the question. Sorry about the
23 speech –

24 MR. KOSNOFF: Well, I -- we have gone through the
criteria for the appropriate assertion of the clergy penitent privilege,

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26 ³ *Borland Dep.*, pg. 58, ll. 4 – pg. 59, ll. 4.

1 and that shields him from disclosing the content of privileged
 2 communications based upon that statute. My questions now are not
 3 directed at the content of that communication. My questions are
 4 directed at what he did or said to others following that
 5 communication.

6
 7 MR. FREY: But that may very well involve his working in
 8 an ecclesiastical capacity and involve conversations with other
 9 people that are privileged, and that's my point.

10
 11 MR. KOSNOFF: That – it's our position that that would not
 12 be privileged and that he is required to answer those questions.

13
 14 MR. FREY: Just a second.

15
 16 (Defense counsel confer)

17
 18 MR. FREY: I – I've made my objection. We disagree.
 19 Okay?

20
 21 MR. KOSNOFF: Are you directing him not to answer.

22
 23 MR. FREY: No, I'm not. I'm asking him if he can answer
 24 without violating – if he can answer about what he did without
 25 violating any confidentiality that I believe he has the right to
 26 maintain as a bishop, then he may answer the question.

27 A. I believe I can do that. Confidentiality is very important to me. I –
 28 the only reason I even hesitate at all is because of the conversation,
 29 and I'm very respectful of both of you. I didn't talk about, to
 30 another person, the content of my discussion with the ward member
 31 that contacted me, but the circumstance surrounding it I did, and
 32 that was Jack LoHolt. I had to talk with him.⁴

33
 34 (2) Philip J. Coleman:⁵

35 Q. Did you receive any information of any kind from any person
 36 that Jack LoHolt was allegedly engaging in sexually
 37 inappropriate activity?

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 40 ⁴ *Borland Dep.*, pg. 59, ll. 22 – pg. 61, ll. 13.

41
 42
 43 ⁵ The excerpts from the deposition of Philip Coleman are attached to the Declaration of Michael T. Pfau as
 44 Exhibit B.

1 A Yes.

2 Q From who whom did you learn that?

3 MR. FREY: I am going to object at this point in time.

4 Let me tell you the basis for the objection.

5 He was a bishop at the time, and we treat those communications
6 as confidential, and in trying to help you with this answer, I'm
7 not trying to present a roadblock.

8 As an accommodation and because of the fact that the
9 individuals involved have not authorized this information to be
10 given, I think they have a right to privacy in that regard and a
11 right to have it protected.

12 As an accommodation, I'll allow the witness to tell you in a
13 general sense what he heard had happened, and I'm not waiving
14 any privilege by doing that.

15 If you'll accept that, we can go forward. You don't have to
16 accept my objection, but if you want to go forward, I'm willing
17 to do that on this basis.

18 MR. KOSNOFF: Tom, I would like to take a brief bathroom
19 break and come back and continue this dialogue on that point.

20 MR. KOSNOFF: Mr. Frey, this is not unfamiliar ground to the
21 two of us, this point. We've been at similar points in other
22 cases.

23 From your comments I take that you are making an objection
24 based upon a number of criteria. One, I think I heard an
25 assertion of the clergy penitent privilege.

26 MR. FREY: I'll make it simple for you. I'll tell you what the
27 basis for my objection is: one, it's a constitutional objection on
28 the free exercise clause; number two, it **may** also be on the basis
29 of the priest penitent privilege depending on the circumstances
30 under which he may have heard something; and the third
31 ground is that we've said in our answers to interrogatories I'm
32 not prepared to reveal the names of anybody or have my client
33 reveal the names of anyone who has been molested without that
34 person's consent because I know for a fact, and I've gotten court
35

1 orders on this, that it can be devastating to have someone knock
 2 on their door and say, "I understand you've been abused and I'd
 3 like to talk to you about it."

4 For those three reasons-- I am willing to go forward because I
 5 know that you have the right to determine knowledge and what
 6 they knew and should have known, and I'm willing to let him
 7 tell you in a general fashion, and I guess I could proffer this for
 8 the record what he can tell you to get you to where you need to
 9 go—

10 MR. KOSNOFF: Before we go there, I think this is important
 11 that we establish enough of a factual record here for Judge
 12 Martinez so we only have to take one trip up and bring Dr.
 13 Coleman back one more time as opposed to two more times, so
 14 I would propose that with respect to the assertion of the claimed
 15 privileges that you're making, that you take a moment and
 16 establish whatever factual basis you would like with Dr.
 17 Coleman to support the assertion of those privileges.

18 I'm inviting you to do that because, as you know, it's the
 19 proponent of the privilege that carries the burden of establishing
 20 it, and I just want to make sure that when this goes up to Judge
 21 Martinez, that you've had a full opportunity to make as full an
 22 evidentiary record as you need to make your arguments to him.

23 MR. FREY: It's not my burden. Under the rule I'm exercising
 24 those privileges, and I've enumerated them.

25 If you wish to question the witness, you are free to do that. If
 26 you choose to go to Judge Martinez, I'll be happy to supply
 27 whatever additional information I need by way of affidavit or
 28 otherwise.

29 I've tried to explain to you, and you're free to ask him the
 30 circumstances and free to ask him a number of questions, and I
 31 think you can get the information that you need without
 32 revealing these names.

33 Quite frankly, Tim, I don't want to reveal any names or my
 34 client to reveal any names that he may have heard of that are not
 35 public right now because I simply don't think it's appropriate.⁶

25
 26 ⁶ *Coleman Dep., pg. 45, ll. 18 – pg. 49, ll. 11 (emphasis added).*

(3) Frederick Johansen:⁷

Q: For the purposes of this question, I would like you to refer to the definition of sexual contact if you have any question about the definition, but during your time as a bishop did you ever come to learn any information about Jack LoHolt having sexual contact as it's defined there in Exhibit No. 1, with any children under the age of 18?

MR. FREY: Before you answer that, I am going to claim privilege if he learned it in any context in which he had a member of the ward coming to him in his capacity as a bishop, either in a confessional sense or in a sense of spiritual counseling with him. If he learned it otherwise, that he just heard a rumor in the ward, he's free to answer that.

Do you understand what I'm saying?

A: Yes.

MR. FREY: Then go ahead and answer.

THE WITNESS: The answer is no.

Q: By Mr. Reich) "No," meaning you've had no person in my capacity approach you with any information about LoHolt, Jack LoHolt, having sexual contact with Children under the age of 18?

MR. FREY: Again, I'm going to object and instruct the witness not to answer that question with regard to anyone who came to see him in his capacity as a bishop. Other than that, he can answer, and I think he has.

MR. REICH: Well, I want to explore that because I'm not satisfied that there has been any foundation yet for asserting that as a privilege.⁸

* * *

⁷ The excerpts from the deposition of Frederick Johansen are attached to the Declaration of Michael T. Pfau as **Exhibit C**.

⁸ Johansen Dep., pg. 29, ll. 1 - pg. 30, ll. 7.

1 Q: I just want to know whether at any point in time you learned while you
 2 were a bishop that LoHolt had had sexual contact with children under
 3 the age of 18.

4 MR. FREY: I am making the same objection. You can go
 5 ahead and answer within the confines that I told you.

6 THE WITNESS: The answer is no.⁹

7 * * *

8 Q: Have you ever had discussions with any others in the church hierarchy,
 9 meaning other bishops, stake presidents, area presidents, regarding Jack
 10 LoHolt?

11 MR. FREY: Before you answer that, if you had discussions with
 12 them in your capacity as a bishop, in your ecclesiastical capacity
 13 concerning Jack LoHolt, then that's protected in my opinion, and I
 14 instruct you not to answer. If you had discussions outside of that, then
 15 you should answer Counsel's question.

16 THE WITNESS: The answer is no.¹⁰

17 III. ARGUMENT

18 A. BROAD DISCOVERY RULES.

19 The purpose of discovery is to provide a mechanism for making relevant information
 20 available to the litigants. "Mutual knowledge of all the relevant facts gathered by both parties
 21 is essential to proper litigation." *Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495, 91 L. Ed. 451, 67 S. Ct.
 22 385 (1947). Thus the spirit of the rules is violated when advocates attempt to use discovery
 23 tools as tactical weapons rather than to expose the facts and illuminate the issues by overuse
 24 of discovery or unnecessary use of defensive weapons or evasive responses. All of this results
 25 in excessively costly and time-consuming activities that are disproportionate to the nature of

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 27 ⁹ *Johansen Dep.*, pg. 30, ll. 12-18.

28 ¹⁰ *Johansen Dep.*, pg. 36, ll. 8-18.

1 the case, the amount involved, or the issues or values at stake. *Wash. State. Physicians Ins.*
 2 *Exch. & Ass'n v. Fisons Corp.*, 122 Wn.2d 299, 858 P.2d 1054 (1993).

3 The concept that a spirit of cooperation and forthrightness during the discovery
 4 process is necessary for the proper functioning of modern trials is reflected in numerous
 5 decisions from the Washington Court of Appeals. In *Gammon v. Clark Equip. Co.*, 38 Wash.
 6 App. 274, 686 P.2d 1102 (1984), *aff'd*, 104 Wash. 2d 613, 707 P.2d 685 (1985), the Court of
 7 Appeals held that a new trial should have been ordered because of discovery abuse by the
 8 defendant:

9 The Supreme Court has noted that the aim of the liberal federal
 10 discovery rules is to "make a trial less a game of blindman's
 11 bluff and more a fair contest with the basic issues and facts
 12 disclosed to the fullest practicable extent." The availability of
 13 liberal discovery means that civil trials no longer need be
 14 carried on in the dark. The way is now clear . . . for the parties
 15 to obtain the fullest possible knowledge of the issues and facts
 16 before trial.

17 This system obviously *cannot* succeed without the full cooperation of the parties.
 18 Accordingly, the drafters wisely included a provision authorizing the trial court to impose
 19 sanctions for unjustified or unexplained resistance to discovery. *Gammon*, 38 Wash. App. at
 20 280.

21 **B. COP ASSERTS THE CLERGY-PENITENT PRIVILEGE TOO BROADLY AND, IN DOING
 22 SO, IS INTERFERING WITH THE DISCOVERY PROCESS.**

23 The clergy-penitent statute, RCW 5.60.060(3) provides:

24 A member of the clergy or a priest shall not, without the consent
 25 of a person making the confession, be examined as to any
 26 **confession** made to him or her in his or her professional
 27 character, in the course of discipline enjoined by the church to
 28 which he or she belongs.

(Emphasis added). A confession is defined as a confidential **communication** between a clergy and a **penitent**. *State v. Martin*, 137 Wn.2d 774, 789, 974 P.2d 1020 (1999) (emphasis added). The privilege will only apply if following elements must be present:

- a. a **communication** must be heard by a member of the clergy;
- b. The clergy must have a religious duty to keep the communication secret and the **penitent** must have a reasonable expectation that it will remain private;
- c. The communication must be **penitential in nature** and the clergy receiving the communication must be required by the tenets of his religion to receive penitential communications and to provide spiritual instruction and guidance in return;
- d. The communication must have been received in the course of discipline enjoined by the church to which he or she belongs.

State v. Martin, 91 Wash. App. 621,630, 789; 959 P.2d 152,158-159(1998) (emphasis added).

Ostensibly on the basis of this privilege, COP has refused to permit its witnesses to answer myriad questions far beyond the narrow strictures of *State v. Motherwell*, 114 Wn.2d 353, 788 P.2d 1066 (1990). As discussed below, COP's assertions of the privilege is misplaced.

(1) THE CLERGY-PENITENT PRIVILEGE DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPLY TO IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS WHO DISCLOSED INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE.

COP, and their witnesses, have refused to disclose the identity of persons who advised them that Jack LoHolt was sexually abusing minors or to answer questions about those conversations, instead of invoking a blanket assertion of privilege. A brief sampling of Bishop Borland's testimony and (COP's attorney's improper interjection of privilege objections is set out below):

Q. At some point in time when you were a member of the Kent Second Ward, did you become aware of any complaints or

1 concerns that Jack Loholt may be engaging in sexually
 2 inappropriate activity?

3 MR. FREY: Before you answer that question, I want to
 4 tell you that you are not to reveal any confidences that you
 5 gained in your capacity as a bishop.

6 A. Okay. Would you say that again, please?

7 MR. KOSNOFF: Could you repeat the question.

8 (The record was read as requested)

9 A. You said, 'May be.' Yes, I did.¹¹

10 * * *

11 Q. (BY MR. KOSNOFF) Did you receive a complaint or report
 12 from anybody that Jack Loholt had engaged in sexually
 13 inappropriate activity during the time that you were bishop
 14 of the Kent Second Ward?

15 MR. FREY: Now, again, Bishop, I'm going to caution
 16 you that if you learned any of this information in your
 17 capacity as a bishop in a confidential communication that
 18 you have the privilege not to answer it, in my opinion.
 19 Counsel may differ with that, but I would instruct you not to
 20 answer if it that's the basis upon which you gained you
 21 information.¹²

22 A series of questions relating to plaintiffs' attorney's attempt to obtain foundational
 23 informational about the assertion of privilege, and to obtain information about the identity of
 24 the person who complained followed this testimony. As is demonstrated by the various
 25 deposition excerpts provided herewith, the entire line of questioning was constantly
 26 interrupted by defense counsel's directions and speaking objections to the witness to "remind"
 him of the clergy-penitent privilege.

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 28

¹¹ *Borland Dep.*, pg. 51, ll. 12-22.

29 ¹² *Borland Dep.*, pg. 54, ll. 11 – pg. 55, ll. 9.

1 Plaintiffs' counsel then attempted to determine whether the witness was properly
 2 invoking the clergy-penitent privilege. For instance, counsel questioned the witnesses on
 3 whether the content of the communication had been divulged to third persons. Unfortunately,
 4 while Bishop Borland admitted he received the notification that Jack LoHolt was sexually
 5 abusing children of the Mormon Church,¹³ and admitted that he discussed the "content of [his]
 6 discussion" about Jack LoHolt's sexual misconduct with Jack LoHolt himself,¹⁴ Bishop
 7 Borland would not disclose the identity of the person who made the disclosure and would not
 8 disclose the content of the communication he had with Jack LoHolt or even the reason the
 9 communication was made.¹⁵ This was a blanket violation of the Federal Rules of Civil
 10 Procedure.

11 The clergy-penitent privilege simply does not apply in this circumstance. If someone
 12 came to Bishop Borland (as is clear happened) and advised Borland that LoHolt was
 13 committing sexual abuse on minors such information cannot be said to be within the clergy-
 14 penitent privilege.¹⁶

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 16 ¹³ *Borland Dep.*, pg. 56-58; pg. 61.

¹⁴ *Borland Dep.*, pg. 61, ll. 12-13.

¹⁵ *Borland Dep.*, pg. 61, ll. 17-21.

¹⁶ In *Scott v. Foster and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day*, No. 98-12-08640, Cir. Court, Multnomah County, OR), a case involving identical issues and allegations, the Church's 30(b)(6) designee testified regarding the church's policies and its confession doctrine and practice.

20 Dr. Lloyd Hale testified that with respect to confessions in the Mormon religion a bishop is obliged to keep a
 21 "confession" strictly confidential. A bishop may not disclose the information to anyone without the permission
 22 of the confessor. *Deposition of Lloyd Hale*, pg. 42 (attached to *Declaration of Michael Pfau as Exhibit D*). The
 23 confession may not be disclosed to the bishop's counselors nor to the Stake President without the consent of the
 24 penitent. *Hale Dep.*, pg. 43. Disciplinary proceedings can be based upon the confession but the confession itself
 25 may not be used in the disciplinary court. *Hale Dep.*, pg. 45

26 In the instant case, Bishop Borland received a communication from someone because shortly after receiving it he
 27 immediately went to Jack LoHolt and removed him as the ward's scoutmaster. *Borland Dep.* (**Exhibit A to**
 28 *Declaration of Michael Pfau*, pg. 81). According to Borland, LoHolt accepted his reasons for removing him as
 29 scoutmaster. *Borland Dep.*, pg. 82. If the complaint Bishop Borland received regarding LoHolt had been a
 30 confession, then under Mormon doctrine according to the defendants' own 30(b)(6) designee, Borland would not
 31 have been permitted to disclose it to LoHolt.

1 First, the person reporting the abuse very likely did not have a reasonable expectation
 2 of privacy about the communication. For example, the person may have been reporting the
 3 sexual misconduct for the purpose of ensuring that LoHolt was removed from any further
 4 contact with minors.¹⁷ Furthermore, if the communication was for such a purpose, it cannot
 5 be said that the communication was "penitential in nature." Defendant's blanket objections
 6 limit plaintiffs from exploring these issues. At the very minimum, plaintiffs should be
 7 allowed to learn the identity of the person or persons who reported LoHolt's sexual abuse of
 8 minors and should be permitted to obtain information about the reason for the
 9 communications. Follow-up discovery into the content of the communication may or may not
 10 be permitted after such information is obtained. However, defendants should not be permitted
 11 to completely thwart plaintiffs' attempts at discovering relevant information without divulging
 12 the basis for the assertion of privilege.

13 **(2) THE CLERGY-PENITENT PRIVILEGE DOES NOT APPLY IF THERE WAS NO**
 14 **REASONABLE EXPECTATION THE COMMUNICATION WOULD BE KEPT**
 15 **CONFIDENTIAL.**

16 A communication is privileged when, among other things, the penitent has a reason to
 17 believe that the communication will remain private. *State v. Martin*, 137 Wn.2d at 789. An
 18 objective test is used to determine whether the communicator intended a communication be
 19 confidential and the privilege will apply only if the communicator's intent that the
 20 "communication be confidential" is reasonable under the circumstances. *State v. Warner*, 125
 21 Wn.2d 892, fn. 8. When communications are made for the purpose of providing a third party

22 Further, victims' complaints or other reports of sexual molestation by a member would not constitute confessions
 23 within the doctrine of the Mormon church. According to Dr. Hale, a parent's complaint to a bishop that her child
 24 had been molested by another member would not constitute a confession under Mormon doctrine. *Hale Dep.*, pg.
 114.

25 ¹⁷ Of course, plaintiffs do not know the answer to this question because defense counsel would not permit the
 26 witness to answer even foundational questions on this issue.

1 with information, there is no confidentiality anticipated or expected. *Id.* citing *J.N. v.*
 2 *Bellingham Sch. Dist. 501*, 74 Wn.App. 49, 63-64, 871 P.2d 1106 (1994).

3 Here, again, because of blanket assertions of privilege, plaintiffs cannot determine
 4 whether the persons who made the communications to Bishop Borland had a reasonable
 5 expectation that the communication would remain strictly confidential or that the information
 6 would be held inviolate by the bishop. A number of examples come to mind as to why such
 7 expectation would not exist. For example, if the persons who communicated the information
 8 to Bishop Borland were knowledgeable about the then-existing¹⁸ statutory duty of clergymen
 9 to report instances of child abuse, they certainly could not have had a reasonable expectation
 10 that the information would remain secret. In that regard, it cannot be logically argued that
 11 when information is disclosed knowing it will be reported to a third person that there is a
 12 reasonable expectation that the communication will remain secret.

13 Second, if the persons reporting the instances of sexual abuse to Bishop Borland
 14 expected him to do something about Jack Loholt, e.g., remove him from his position as a
 15 scout master, it would be reasonable to assume that the information would be disclosed – at
 16 least for the purpose of advising Loholt, and others within the congregation, as to the reason
 17 Loholt was being removed as a scout master.¹⁹

18 Plaintiffs should be allowed, at a minimum, to obtain information about whether the
 19 persons who reported the abuse had any reasonable expectation that their disclosures would
 20 remain secret. COP's and its witnesses blanket invocation of the clergy-penitent privilege
 21 prohibits plaintiffs ability to do so.

23
 24 ¹⁸ LoHolt's abuse of the plaintiffs occurred during the time when the mandatory reporting statute applied to
 members of the clergy.

25 ¹⁹ In fact, again referring to COP's own 30(b)(6) designee's testimony, the Church policy and practice is to
 26 inform various leadership bodies within the ward when it becomes aware that an individual is a child molester.
Hale Dep., pg. 51 – 53.

1 **C. THE CLERGY-PENITENT PRIVILEGE DOES NOT APPLY AS TO REASONS LOHOLT
2 WAS REMOVED FROM BEING A SCOUT MASTER.**

3 Finally, and most importantly, Bishop Borland would not answer questions relating to
4 why he took steps to remove Jack Loholt as a scout master for the church. Again, Borland, on
5 the advise of COP's counsel, determined that such information would reveal the content of
6 allegedly privileged communications. The following testimony occurred on that issue:

7 Q. Did you remove Jack Loholt from any positions working
8 with youth in the ward while you were bishop?

9 A. Did I removed him?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Released him –

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. – yes.

14 Q. And what positions did you release him from?

15 A. His responsibility in scouting.

16 Q. Why did you release him?

17 MR. FREY: You can't –

18 A. I can't divulge that.

19 Q. I'm not asking you to reveal any communications. I'm
20 asking you for your personal reasons why you released him
 from scouting.

21 MR. FREY: Same objection. You're entitled to claim
22 the privilege.²⁰

23 As discussed herein, under certain circumstances, a communication may be privileged.
24 However, there is **no** authority for the proposition that the reason underlying one's removal

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²⁰ *Borland Dep.*, pg. 72, ll. 23 – pg. 73, ll. 15.

1 from a position over children is contained within the privilege. For example, Borland may
 2 have removed LoHolt as a scout master because he (Borland) believed LoHolt was a danger
 3 to young boys. If such an example is the reason for removal, the reason would not be covered
 4 by the privilege because, simply, a **belief** is not a **communication**. Plaintiffs should, at a
 5 minimum, be permitted to inquiry into the reasons why Borland removed LoHolt from his
 6 position as scout master.

7 **D. THERE IS NO "FIRST AMENDMENT" TESTIMONIAL PRIVILEGE.**

8 COP asserted, throughout the witnesses' deposition, that the witnesses could invoke
 9 the "First Amendment" testimonial privilege. There is no such privilege. Furthermore, even
 10 if such a privilege existed, it would not apply in the circumstances of this case because even if
 11 a statute compels or pressures persons to violate a sincerely held tenet of their religious
 12 beliefs, it does not violate the free exercise clause of the First Amendment if the statute carries
 13 out a compelling governmental interest and the statutory means of satisfying such interest
 14 imposes the least amount of restriction on the practice of religious beliefs.²¹ Washington state
 15 Courts have already held that the prevention of child abuse constitutes a compelling state
 16 interest for purposes of determining the validity of a statute under the First Amendment's
 17 guaranty of the free exercise of religion.²²

18 If COP has authority for the proposition that there is a First Amendment testimonial
 19 privilege it must come forward with that authority. Plaintiffs' assert there is none. COP
 20 cannot shield itself from liability or thwart plaintiffs quest for the truth by asserting a broad,
 21 blanket First Amendment privilege.

22 ²¹ *Motherwell*, 114 Wn.2d at 362-363.

23 ²² *Motherwell*, 114 Wn.2d at 365.

E. AWARD OF COSTS.

Plaintiffs do not seek sanctions or fees associated with this motion but do request the Court order defendants to pay all costs associated with the continued depositions.

IV. CONCLUSION

Plaintiffs seek the opportunity to re-depose these bishops as to all communications they had regarding the abuse of children by LoHolt outside of the narrow confines of the clergy-penitent privilege. Specifically, plaintiffs request the opportunity to obtain testimony regarding the (1) the names of the witnesses who complained and/or reported LoHolt's abuse of minors; (2) the substance of the complaint and/or reports of abuse; (3) the circumstances surrounding complaints and/or reports about LoHolt's abuse of minors; (4) all communications between clergy regarding complaints and/or reports of LoHolt's abuse of minors; (5) the reason for LoHolt's removal as boy scout leader; and (6) all other appropriate relief this Court deems just under the circumstances.

DATED this 7th day of October, 2005.

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